

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05 OES-05 H-02 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /094 W

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R 302114Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2595

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS BOGOTA 12419

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA, UN, CO

SUBJ: GOC DEFINES EQUATORIAL ORBIT IN SPACE AS

NATURAL RESOURCE

1. THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE HAS ISSUED AS A SPECIAL BULLETIN A DECEMBER 13 INTERVIEW WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES JOAQUIN FONSECA. IN THAT INTERVIEW FONSECA DEFINES FURTHER THE CLAIM PUT FORWARD BY FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO AT THE THIRTIETH UNGA (USUN 4841), THAT THE EQUATORIAL ORBIT USED BY CERTAIN SATELLITES IS A NATURAL RESOURCE OF THE TEN EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES.

2. FONSECA DESCRIBED THE TRACK IN QUESTION AS THE "SYNCHRONIZED GEO-STATIONARY" ORBIT THAT OCCUPIES A NARROW BAND 35,871 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE EQUATOR.

3. THE UNDER SECRETARY POINTED OUT THE GROWING VALUE OF THIS ORBIT FOR COMMUNICATION SATELLITES NOTING THAT MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES WERE DOING VERY WELL IN SUCH VENTURES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LDC'S. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SATELLITE THAT COULD BE

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PUT INTO EQUATORIAL ORBIT HAD BEEN PLACED AT ONE HUNDRED

AND EIGHTY.

4. FONSECA SAID THAT THE 1967 TREATY ON THE PEACEFUL USE OF OUTER SPACE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE ORBITAL QUESTION. HE STATED THE GOC CLAIMED SOVEREIGNTY ONLY OVER THAT PORTION OF THE ORBIT OVER THE SEAS BE DECLARED A "COMMON PATRIMONY OF HUMANITY". HE POINTED OUT CERTAIN SIMILARITIES TO LAW OF SEA MATTERS AND OBSERVED THAT A SIMILAR SET OF RULINGS COULD BE APPLIED TO THE EQUATORIAL ORBIT.

5. FONSECA LISTED, AS THE TEN COUNTRIES WITH EQUATORIAL ORBIT SPACE ABOVE THEM, COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, ECUADOR, GABON REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, ZAIRE, UGANDA, KENYA, SOMALIA AND INDONESIA.

6. FONSECA EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS ACTION TO REACH JURIDICAL DEFINITIONS AND RULINGS IN THIS AREA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RIGHTS OF THE TEN EQUATORIAL STATES.

7. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPACE EXPLORATION, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, TRACKING STATIONS, PRESS RELEASES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**TAGS:** TSPA, CO, UN, (FONSECA, JOQUAIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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